

# Eco-Etch Pro Concrete Etcher Installation Guide



## STEP 01

### PLANNING/TEST

Proper planning will save you time, money, and help you achieve a successful project.

1. Measure the project area to estimate the total amount of material that may be required for the project.

2. Inspect the surface for substrate damage and surface barriers such as coatings, sealers, concrete curing compounds, oils, grime, etc., or other foreign elements that may prohibit the etching material to react properly with the calcium and lime.

3. If contaminants need to be removed prior to application, measure surface area to obtain appropriate amount of material.

4. Perform a small test in an inconspicuous area to determine reactivity and optimum dwell time. Confirming this step prior to full application will save materials and time.

5. Exterior projects should be planned away from direct sunlight if during summer months. Using shade or mobile popup tents will extend wet time needed.

6. Plan to cover and prewet any plants or delicate vegetation that may be exposed during the application or rinse process.

Be sure to schedule around weather conditions and recommended temperature range.

## STEP 02

### TOOLS/MATERIALS

**Mechanical Tool Options:** Garden-Type Pump Sprayer, Low Speed Floor Buffer With Black Pads, Pressure Washer, Wet/Dry Vacuum with Squeegee Attachment, 36-60 Grit Sanding Screens.

**Manual Tool Options:** Stiff Bristle Brush, Squeegee, Buckets, Water, Plastic Sheeting, Painters Tape.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

1. **Surface Preparation Materials:**

a) **Stripping:** EcoFast 100 HD Liquid or 100G GEL Paint Stripper.

b) **Degreasing:** EcoFast 500+ Cleaner & Degreaser.

## STEP 03

### SURFACE PREP

Prior to application, if you are aware that there is a barrier on the concrete or masonry surface being etched, it must be removed completely. (examples: sealers, coatings, thick soils, surface oils and grease, etc. If you are unsure perform a pre-test. Eco-Etch Pro will only react with immediate foaming when in direct contact with cementitious surfaces.

**PRE-TEST:** Always perform a test patch to determine sufficient dwell time (5-15 minutes), etch level (minimum CSP-1) will require full strength. If foaming does not occur, a barrier or lack of calcium and lime is present. Barriers must be removed prior to etching. If the concrete is extremely dense, the use of 36-60 grit sanding discs while wet with Eco-Etch Pro may be required. The etching process must achieve a foam reaction and create small micro-pits with open pores. **DO NOT PROCEED UNLESS FOAMING REACTION OCCURS.** Repeat the process on smooth areas where pores are not visible or water does not readily absorb.

**SURFACE PROTECTION:** While Eco-Etch Pro will only react when in contact with calcium and lime content, it is advisable to protect surface not intended to be etched. If left to dry on such surface it may cause unwanted staining on the surface, including mild metals.

## STEP 04

### APPLICATION

Perform your project in small sections as determined by manpower, temperature, and environmental conditions to avoid premature drying of the material. Cover and/or pre-wet vegetation if runoff or accidental overspray is expected. Apply full strength liberally with a pump sprayer. If application volume is uneven, use a hard bristle brush to spread the material evenly. After the dwell time, scrub the material to deep clean with a hard bristle brush or use a floor machine with brush attachment or black stripping pad. Attach a 36 to 60-grit sanding disc if the concrete is very dense. The material must remain wet during the dwell time, generally between 5 to 15 minutes. Eco-Etch may also be used for dust mitigation, resin disc lubrication if diamond grinding in order to prolong pad life while enhancing etching of dense concrete. Eco-Etch Pro may be diluted up to 2:1 with water when used for light cleaning only.

**EFFLORESCENCE CLEANING:** Use a pump sprayer to distribute the material or dip a hard bristle brush into a bucket of solution onto the efflorescence that you are trying to remove. If the surface is colored with a stain or integrally colored, you should test for color stability in an inconspicuous area. The etch may be diluted with water up to 2:1 to weaken the reaction if the color is aging.

## STEP 05

### CLEAN-UP

**RINSE & CLEAN-UP:** Power wash or use a water hose then scrub with a hard bristle brush to remove concrete dust and residue. Repeat if necessary.

Take your time to thoroughly inspect that all dust residue is removed prior to application of a sealer or coating. If dust is present, your coating will bond to this weak layer and will become a point of premature failure. On the other hand, if your surface is profiled and cleaned correctly you will optimize your finish bonding and lifespan significantly.

**BIODEGRADABILITY:** Unlike muriatic or phosphoric acid blends, Eco-Etch Pro is 100% biodegradable and is not considered an environmental hazard. Additionally, it will not harm vegetation.

**TOOL CLEAN-UP:** Rinse all tools and equipment with clean water and soap.